

Today, we are making steady progress on these very sensitive issues which need to be resolved between the Okinawa Prefecture and the Government of Japan.

It is no exaggeration to say that Okinawa's people view their homeland as occupied territory. They see the overwhelming presence of United States military forces there as confirmation and they remain the poorest prefecture in Japan.

Some 50 years after the end of World War II in the Pacific, Okinawa is the only unresolved residual issue of any significance between Japan and the United States. The people of Okinawa are the least culpable of all those thrust into World War II. For centuries past, they have been known in the region for promoting peace. They are friendly to the interests and people of the United States. Yet they bear the most burden generations later.

They have given up a great deal in terms of economic prosperity and deserve to be recognized for their contributions toward ensuring the treaty's implementation and regional peace and security.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H.Res. 68), as amended.

The question was taken.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution just considered and also on House Concurrent Resolution 16.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

HONG KONG REVERSION ACT

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 750) to support the autonomous governance of Hong Kong after its reversion to the People's Republic of China, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 750

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Hong Kong Reversion Act".

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to support the autonomous governance of Hong Kong and the future well-being of the Hong Kong people by ensuring the continuity of United States laws with respect to Hong Kong after

its reversion to the People's Republic of China on July 1, 1997, and to outline circumstances under which the President of the United States could modify the application of United States laws with respect to Hong Kong if the People's Republic of China fails to honor its commitment to give the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong a high degree of autonomy.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Joint Declaration of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Question of Hong Kong, done at Beijing on December 19, 1984, is a binding international agreement which sets forth the commitments made by both governments on the reversion of Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China on July 1, 1997.

(2) The People's Republic of China in the Joint Declaration pledges, among other things, that "the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region will enjoy a high degree of autonomy, except in foreign and defence affairs. . . ." that basic human rights and freedoms "will be ensured by law. . . ." and that "[t]he legislature of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region shall be constituted by elections."

(3) Senior government officials of the People's Republic of China have repeatedly assured a smooth transfer of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty, a successful implementation of the "one country, two systems" policy, long-term prosperity for Hong Kong, and continued respect for the basic rights of the Hong Kong people.

(4) Despite general assertions guaranteeing the autonomous governance of Hong Kong, several official acts and statements by senior officials of the Government of the People's Republic of China reflect an attempt to infringe upon the current and future levels of autonomy in Hong Kong. These acts or statements include, but are not limited to—

(A) initial proposals, which were later withdrawn, by officials of the Government of the People's Republic of China to obtain confidential files on civil servants of the Hong Kong Government or require such civil servants to take "loyalty oaths";

(B) the decision of the Government of the People's Republic of China to dissolve the democratically elected Legislative Council on July 1, 1997, and the appointment of a provisional legislature in December of 1996;

(C) the delineation by officials concerning the types of speech and association which will be permitted by the Government of the People's Republic of China after the reversion;

(D) initial warnings, which were later withdrawn, to religious institutions not to hold certain gatherings after the reversion; and

(E) the decision on February 23, 1997, of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China to repeal or amend certain Hong Kong ordinances, including the Bill of Rights Ordinance, the Societies Ordinance of 1992 (relating to freedom of association), and the Public Order Ordinance of 1995 (relating to freedom of assembly).

(5) The reversion of Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China has important implications for both United States national interests and the interests of the Hong Kong people. The United States Government has a responsibility to ensure that United States interests are protected during and after this transition, and it has a profound interest in ensuring that basic and fundamental human rights of the Hong Kong people are also protected.

(6) The United States-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 sets forth United States policy concerning Hong Kong's reversion to the People's Republic of China on July 1, 1997, and Hong Kong's special status as a Special Administrative Region of that country. It ensures the continuity of United States laws regarding Hong Kong while establishing a mechanism in section 202 of that Act whereby the President can modify the application of United States laws with respect to Hong Kong if the President "determines that Hong Kong is not sufficiently autonomous to justify treatment under a particular law of the United States, or any provision thereof, different from that accorded the People's Republic of China".

(7) One of the principal purposes of the Congress in enacting the United States Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 was to maintain Hong Kong's autonomy by ensuring that the United States will continue to treat Hong Kong as a distinct legal entity, separate and apart from the People's Republic of China, for all purposes, in those areas in which the People's Republic of China has agreed that Hong Kong will continue to enjoy a high degree of autonomy, unless the President makes a determination under section 202 of that Act.

(8) Although the United States Government can have an impact on ensuring the future autonomy of the Hong Kong Government and in protecting the well-being of the Hong Kong people, ultimately the future of Hong Kong will be determined by the willingness of the Government of the People's Republic of China to maintain the freedoms now enjoyed by the people of Hong Kong and to rely on the people of Hong Kong to govern themselves.

SEC. 4. CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATIONS.

The Congress makes the following declarations:

(1) Recognizing that the United States Government and the Hong Kong Government have long enjoyed a close and beneficial working relationship, for example between the United States Customs Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Secret Service, and their corresponding agencies of the Hong Kong Government, the United States urges the two governments to continue their effective cooperation.

(2) Recognizing that the preservation of Hong Kong's autonomous customs territory has important security and commercial implications for the United States and the people of Hong Kong, the United States calls upon the People's Republic of China to fully respect the autonomy of the Hong Kong customs territory.

(3) Recognizing that Hong Kong has historically been an important port of call for United States naval vessels, the United States urges the Government of the People's Republic of China to consider in a timely and routine manner United States requests for port calls at Hong Kong.

(4) Recognizing that Hong Kong enjoys a robust and professional free press with important guarantees on the freedom of information, the United States declares that a free press and access to information are fundamentally important to the economic and commercial success of Hong Kong and calls upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to fully respect these essential rights of the Hong Kong people.

(5) Recognizing that the first fully democratic elections of a legislature in Hong Kong took place in 1995, following nearly 150 years of colonial rule, the United States recognizes that the Joint Declaration of 1984 requires that the Special Administrative Region legislature "shall be constituted by